

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, American energy independence is important. Let's face it, we simply cannot conserve our way to energy independence.

Conservation is a sign of personal virtue, but it will not lead to American energy independence. The way we can move to energy independence is by increasing our supply and increasing our refining capacity, increasing our investments in renewable energy sources, increasing our focus on conservation. All those things can work.

Instead, this Democrat Congress is focused on naming months, naming weeks, naming days. In fact, we have had 125 resolutions recognizing various days, weeks and months, including Frank Sinatra Day. I love Frank, but he's not going to take us to American energy independence. National Train Day, National Plumbing Industry Week, but where is National Energy Independence Day?

FRUSTRATED WITH THE HIGH PRICES

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, people around America are talking about gas. That's all we hear.

There is a difference, however. The people back home in upstate New York are talking about gas because they are frustrated with the high prices. Yet other people in this country are attempting to demagog this issue and to turn it into a political issue.

We listen to the oil company executives say that we should drill, drill, drill. Drill our way to energy independence. Well, that's an impossibility. They say it as if we should believe what the oil company executives tell us, because, after all, they have always told us the truth in the past. That's just not the way it is.

In fact, if you look at the facts, you will see that there are 68 million acres available for drilling in this country that oil companies have failed and refuse to drill upon. Yet they continue to talk about drill, drill, because they don't want the alternative. They don't want to talk about conservation, and they don't want to talk about alternative energy.

This is useless, and it's divisive to America. We need to find solutions by working together, not pointing the finger and blaming others.

DEMOCRAT CONGRESS DOESN'T GET IT

(Mr. JORDAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, the Democrat Congress doesn't get it. We have got terrorists who want to do us harm, and we have yet to pass the FISA law. We have troops on the battlefield, and we have yet to pass the supplemental to get them the resources they need to do their job.

We have got a \$10 trillion national debt, and yet the budget that was passed 3 weeks ago contains record levels of spending and the largest tax increase in history. Of course, we have got \$4 a gallon gasoline and still no up or down vote on energy, expanding energy exploration.

We need to drill, we need to drill now. It's time to stop talking and start doing.

OIL COMPANIES DON'T WANT TO FOLLOW THE RULES

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I think I have walked into a meeting of the Republican drilling caucus. If they would remember a little history, they would remember that Mr. CHENEY had a meeting down at the White House back in 2001 and all of the oil company executives came in, and it was a secret meeting.

We have yet to find out who was there, what the agenda was, or whoever. But we can now, 8 years later, see the agenda, create chaos in the Middle East, attack Iraq, destabilize the oil fields, threaten Iran. Let's drive up the price of oil.

Gasoline was \$1.47 when George Bush took control, and here we are, it's \$4. They have absolutely succeeded.

Now at the end of that meeting they said, and, really, the best part of this is, we are going to get the right to drill in ANWR. Let's blame the environmentalists. They won't let us build refineries.

The reason we don't build refineries is because oil companies don't want to follow the rules. The only thing they drill the hole in is the bottom of the economic boat in this country.

CONVOLUTED NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, my previous colleague is a friend from Washington, but he really doesn't get it either.

When you have a convoluted national energy policy that the Democrats are putting forward, they meet themselves coming and going. On the one hand we have had speaker after speaker stand here today and tell us we can't drill our way out of it. Yet earlier this month we passed a bill that allows American citizens to sue OPEC to force them to produce more oil and gas.

The only way for them to produce more oil and gas is to drill more oil and gas. On the one hand they say production won't affect supply, and on the other hand they want to sue OPEC to force OPEC to produce more oil and gas so that we can buy it, from folks who are, at best, not our enemies.

This is wrongheaded on every level. I expect the OPEC companies today are working on legislation to allow their citizens to sue America to force America to produce her energy.

We can do better than this. We can quit talking past each other and make this thing work if we just do it.

KEEP JOBS IN AMERICA!

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, yesterday the GAO sustained a protest filed by Boeing Company over the Air Force's decision to award a lucrative contract for aerial refueling tankers to a team led by Northrop Grumman and the European firm behind Airbus.

GAO's decision followed a 100-day review of the Air Force's selection process for the \$35 billion tanker program. In the decision, GAO recommended that the Air Force reopen discussions with the contractors, obtain revised proposals and make a new decision. The Air Force was also directed to reimburse Boeing for the cost of the protest.

I am very pleased, as many Members of this body are, as millions of people across America are, and we hope the Air Force completely rebids the contract. But this opens a whole bigger issue that we ought to be discussing.

We need to step back, take a look at the bigger picture—the impact of the Defense Department contract outsourcing on American jobs. As we know, the American economy was founded with a base of manufacturing jobs. Today, it is still those jobs that keep the economy strong.

Right now the stock market is down, the dollar is down, unemployment numbers are up. It doesn't take a Harvard MBA to see our economy is faltering because of the erosion of manufacturing jobs.

Let's keep our jobs in America!

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6041

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor H.R. 6041.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5781, FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID PARENTAL LEAVE ACT OF 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I